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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,494	02/22/2002	William G. Archibald	AGSFI.0107	8477

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EXAMINER

BEACH, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,494

Applicant(s)

ARCHIBALD ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A Beach

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/22/02 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "two strings of tubulars", "tubulars suspended" from the cart, and "lateral separation between a string of tubulars hung from said cart and a string of tubular in use" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-4 are objected to because of the following informalities: on lines 5 and 6 of claim 1, more than one string of tubulars are claimed which lack antecedent basis with the two strings of tubulars in the preamble, it is unclear as to how many strings of tubulars are being claimed. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rode 4,108,318. Rode shows a heavy duty cart 27 to suspend tubulars from a drilling rig wherein lateral movement can provide lateral separation between a string of tubulars hanging from the cart (figure 17) and a string of tubulars in use with the semisubmersible offshore drilling rig (figures 4, 7, and 10-11; claims 6 and 14) with first and second hoists with rotary tables (unnumbered - figure 1; claim 10). Rode shows the cart 27 moveable on rails 26 (claim 8) and in figure 17, the first string marine risers and BOP (claim 12) and the second string to include an Xmas tree assembly 29 (claim 13).

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al 6,217,258. Yamamoto shows a method of drilling offshore with the apparatus having a rotary table 26 and a heavy-duty cart 61 to suspend tubulars from a drilling rig wherein lateral movement can provide lateral separation between a string of tubulars hanging from the cart and a string of tubulars in use with the offshore drilling rig (figure 10) suspended over a moonpool 90. Yamamoto shows a semisubmersible offshore rig (claim 14) and shows, in figure 10, the first string marine risers and BOP (claim 12) and the second string to include an Xmas tree assembly (claim 13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al 6,217,258 in view of Pouget et al 4,899,682 and Blurton et al 3,693,729. Yamamoto shows a heavy-duty cart 61 to suspend tubulars from a drilling rig wherein lateral movement can provide lateral separation between a string of tubulars hanging from the cart and a string of tubulars in use with the offshore drilling rig (figure 10). Yamamoto shows the cart having an opening on one side 63 (claim 2) and carrying loads greater than 100 metric tons (col. 1, lines 27-31; claim 3 and 9) where the cart is substantially rectangular (figures 3-5) and having an opening and a passageway 63 through which tubulars can be inserted (claims 4 and 7) and substantially funnel shaped (claim 8). Yamamoto shows a semisubmersible offshore rig (claims 6 and 14) and first 26 and second hoists 45 with rotary tables (unnumbered - figure 1; claim 10). Yamamoto shows, in figure 10, the first string marine risers and BOP (claim 12) and the second string to include an Xmas tree assembly (claim 13). However, Yamamoto shows skids in order to move the cart laterally and fails to show the cart with rails; however, Pouget shows a similar submersible rig having a cart 54 including rails in order to laterally move tubulars 61 and Blurton clearly teaches that skids and rails are

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equivalents in the art of offshore drilling. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yamamoto, as taught by Pouget and Blurton, to include rails to move a heavy duty cart instead of skids since they are art recognized equivalents in the art of offshore drilling as means to effect lateral movement (Blurton, col. 12, lines 29-31), and the skids or the rollers with rails would function equally well to move the cart.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

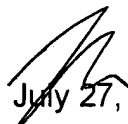
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A Beach whose telephone number is 703.305.4848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-6:30pm.

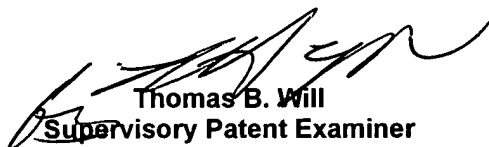
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 703.308.3870. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.872.9352 or 703.872.9326 for regular communications and 703.872.9327 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.306.4198.

Thomas A. Beach


July 27, 2003


Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600